

THE WASHINGTON LETTER.

Although the statement comes neither from the president nor Secretary Gage, that there will be a new secretary in the immediate future is virtually an assured fact. There have been numerous rumors to this effect ever since Mr. Roosevelt became president, but the information now comes from sources so close to the White House that there is no doubt as to its authenticity. Mr. Gage himself has heretofore emphatically denied that he had any intention of resigning, but when seen yesterday he merely refused to deny or affirm the rumor and it is known that the president has spoken to several of the party leaders of the probability of his having to select a successor. The only names that have been mentioned for the portfolio so far are Colonel Myron T. Merrick of Cleveland, president of the American Bankers' association and Hon. T. Jefferson Coolidge of Boston, ex-minister to France. The latter is regarded as most likely to receive an offer of the position.

The appointment of Mr. Henry C. Payne of Wisconsin to succeed Mr. Charles Enroy Smith as postmaster general is regarded as a most happy selection. Mr. Payne, in addition to being a close friend of the president, has had an eminently successful career as a business man and has been for a number of years a politician, but has never been the subject of the slightest criticism even by his political enemies. His exceptionally capable management of the postoffice of Milwaukee has given him an insight into the duties of his new office and his great executive ability will fit him for the management of the vast business machine the post office department has grown to be. He is known to favor penny postage.

There have been numerous other rumors of cabinet changes, but they appear to be pure speculation. It is said that Secretary Long will be the next to resign but the rumor is based merely on the fact that the secretary in conversation with friends has expressed solicitude for his law business which he fears is suffering from his compulsory inattention. Few people realize that, apart from the honor, which is not always unalloyed, the acceptance of a cabinet portfolio is accompanied by many sacrifices. It is impossible, even by the most rigid economy, for a cabinet minister to live within his salary. A member of President Harrison's cabinet, whose tastes were most simple and who occupied a residence entirely unsuitable for the entertainments he was compelled to give, told me that his annual expenses exceeded his salary by \$5,000 per year and a member of Mr. McKinley's cabinet placed the amount at \$6,000 per year. From a business standpoint there is no future to a cabinet position and politically it is regarded as a "graveyard."

Many people believe that Secretary Hay will resign in the not distant future but I am told on excellent authority that he will do so only in case his physician strongly advises it and that the president is most anxious that he should remain. It is certain that unless the most unforeseen circumstances should occur there will be no other changes unless it be in the portfolio of the interior. As a matter of fact, however, Mr. Roosevelt is unintentionally and unconsciously setting a pace which many of the elderly gentlemen who compose his cabinet find a little trying. "I have just come from a cabinet meeting and I am a little breathless," said one of them recently. "We all admire the president's youthful energy and have the highest regard for him but unfortunately for us old fellows the pace he sets is a little trying. It makes us very breathless. There are several of us who always leave a cabinet meeting panting."

On Thursday congress adjourned for the holidays and those members who have not yet brought their families to Washington have gone home. The ratification of the Hay-Pauncefote treaty and the return of Senator Morgan's canal bill by the committee on inter-oceanic canals have closed away a good deal of what might be termed preliminary legislation and as soon as the Senate resumes it will be in a position to take up the details of

the Nicaraguan canal, provided no opposition to the selection of that route arises in the meantime.

On the Wednesday before adjournment the house of representatives passed the Philippine tariff bill as reported by the ways and means committee. The majority presented their perfunctory opposition but their arguments were as rambling and their suggestions as vague as their opposition was futile. Chairman Payne, after pointing out that the democrats had done as much to precipitate the Spanish war as had the republicans, and that both parties, in their credit he said, had postponed belligerent action until every consideration of humanity made it imperative, made an eloquent appeal for the support of the democrats in the effort of the majority to give the Philippine islands a government which would render the natives fit for citizenship in the United States, their own or any other country, and which would impress upon them the blessings of liberty and civilization.

Since the measure was passed by the house, the tariff commission has recommended a reduction of fifty per cent. of the imports on tobacco, hemp, sugar and some other products of the islands. The measure is not yet a law and it is possible that the senate may see fit to amend the bill in compliance, or partial compliance, with the recommendations of the commission. The excellent record of Commissioner Taft and his associates and the success which has so far crowned their efforts in the Philippines entitle their wishes to consideration and if they believe that some few concessions will further enable them to establish peaceful and prosperous conditions their suggestions should be made the subject of serious deliberation.

The house has made the Hayburn canal bill the order of business for January 7th, the day after congress convenes, and unless Mr. Cannon, chairman of the committee on appropriations, opposes it or the growing, although not yet important, sentiment in favor of the Panama route develops beyond all expectations, it is believed that the bill can be put through within a week. The measure provides for a total appropriation of \$180,000,000 and makes the sum of \$10,000,000 available as soon as the measure becomes a law. It is said that Mr. Cannon's only objection is that, as chairman of the appropriations committee, he regards his responsibility as very great and fears that even the sum provided in the bill will be insufficient for the completion of the canal.

Stretching Their Tongues.
In the new apiculture, the length of the bee's tongue is of importance. The longer the tongue the greater is the honey-gathering capacity, and a new French apparatus, the glossometer, is designed to aid the apiarist who, by judicious selection, seeks to develop a long-tongued race. The apparatus is simply a glass vessel for syrup, with a lid having numerous perforations, and a floating scale to show the height of the liquid when the bees just reach it through the holes. It is estimated that the ordinary bee can draw sweets from a depth of a quarter of an inch, and that selection can increase the range a twenty-fifth of an inch.

Real Estate Transfers.
Lucian B. Hissam administrator, to Kate W. McCown, lot in Milford borough on Broad street. Consideration \$1,600.

Frederick J. Holtzer to The Deerpark Brewing Company, bill of sale of personal property.

Geo. Gregory, W. F. Choi, W. T. Struble, Jas. P. Van Eton, Dan Gregory to Commonwealth, bond as Sheriff.

W. D. Kelley, coroner, and others, bond to commonwealth.

Food Changed to Poison.
Putrefying food in the intestines produces effects like those of arsenic, but Dr. King's New Life Pills expel the poisons from clogged bowels gently, easily and surely during Constipation, Bilelessness, Sick Headache, Fevers, all Liver, Kidney and Bowel troubles. Only 25c at all druggists.

Chase & Sanborn's Old Homestead Java coffee at Armstrong & Co.

PERSONALS.

O. L. Rowland, Esq., of Honesdale attended court here this week.

John L. Gourlay of Newark visited his family here the past week.

X. P. Buddy of Providence, R. I., passed a few days in town this week.

Howard Reed of the U. P. spent the week with his family at the Anchorage.

William Weaver of near Dover, N. J., is visiting his cousin, Sheriff-ident Gregory, for a week.

Henry M. Courtright and wife of near Cuzcohangh were in town Tuesday for Christmas sundries.

Dr. J. F. Rothrock, state commissioner of forestry, was in the county last week and visited Milford for a day.

John Durling and wife of Dingman township are on a two weeks' visit with friends in New York and Connecticut.

Nelson G. Palmer, who occupies a house on upper Ann street during the summer, left town Tuesday with his wife to spend the winter at Passaic, N. J.

Geo. F. Hogan of New York, a former teacher in this county, now attending the Stroudsburg Normal school, Frank Fuller of Rowlands, Will and Louis Rudolph were in town this week.

Miss Carrie Armstrong and Miss Bessie Van Eton of New York, Miss Ida Van Eton of Bridgeport, Conn., Fred Kinar of the U. P. and Geo. Wheeler of New York spent the holidays in Milford.

D. A. Unsworth of Atlanta, Ga., Vivian Strathers of New York, Arthur Wolfe of Philadelphia, Reoccos Gourlay, Almer Terwilliger and Geo. Scudder of New York are guests in town this week.

A Buffalo Ranch.

A ranchman in Texas is making buffalo a special feature of his stock. He has a herd of about fifty, with a wide range over the prairie, and says they are not hard to raise, needing only freedom and plenty of room. He has a few elk with them and says that the elk and buffalo get along peacefully for the most part. Now and then he sells a specimen to one or another of the zoological gardens, but he seems to have gone into the business for scientific interest in the preservation of an animal now nearly extinct.

This man offers a refreshing contrast to the butcher in the middle west who killed half a dozen of these rare animals for a barbecue some time ago. Buffalo steak is not particularly delicious, and there was no reason for the massacre, except that the owner wanted to provide a rare viand. The same motive actuated the boss vivants of the middle ages when they had peacock breast and humming birds' tongues served up for their state banquets; and it actuated the savage chief of the Sandwich islands when he had a cloak made for himself out of the golden feathers of a certain species of bird, there being but two yellow feathers on the bird, so that an immense number had to be killed to make the cloak.

The Texas ranchman, on the contrary, is doing his best to provide the elk and buffalo with a home where they may live in peace and multiply and thus become less rare. Whether his enterprise proves profitable enough to cause others to follow his example cannot as yet be known, but it is to be hoped that it will. It is fascinating work to raise rare birds and animals and when they are indigenous to the soil the work is not so very difficult.

Saw Death Near.

"It often made my heart ache," writes L. C. Overstreet of Elgin, Tenn., "to hear my wife cough until it seemed her weak and sore lungs would collapse. Good doctors said she was so far gone with consumption that no medicine or surgery could save her, but a friend recommended Dr. King's New Discovery and persistent use of this excellent medicine saved her life." It's absolutely guaranteed for Coughs, Colds, Bronchitis, Asthma and all Throat and Lung diseases. 50c and \$1.00 at all druggists. Trial bottles free.

The J. W. Pepper Piano Music Magazine, published at 8th and Locust streets, Philadelphia, is one of the newest magazines in its field. Nobody can complain of not getting the worth of their money, as it publishes 21 pieces—10 vocal and 11 instrumental—making 84 pages of the best music and all of it original and written by the most popular composers of today. Price \$1.00 per year.

PIKE COUNTY COURTS.

The regular term adjourned from last week to Dec. 23 was attended by Hon. Allen Craig, president judge, and Associates Bouck and Kizer.

Constables B. C. Totten, Westfall, E. H. Butler, Greene, and Louis Stanton, Dingman, made returns.

Estate of Cyril C. D. Pinchot. Petition of Mari A. Pinchot for partition filed and inquest awarded.

Estate John F. Pinchot. Petition of Mari A. Pinchot for partition, inquest awarded.

Bond of George Gregory as sheriff with securities filed and approved.

Bond and recognizance of W. B. Kelly, coroner, filed and approved.

Estate C. Beebler, dec'd. Petition for appointment of trustee. John R. Gilpin appointed and bond filed.

Joseph V. Carhoff vs. William Hornbuck. Petition for rule on plaintiff to show cause why he shall not give security for costs.

Quick vs. Quick. Divorce. U. W. Bull appointed examiner.

Estate David D. Newman, dec'd. Petition of Minnie Katharine and Louise Newman for guardian. C. W. Bull appointed and bond of guardian in \$200 each case approved.

Bridge at Bushkill across Little Bushkill confirmed n'l.

Morris vs. White. Petition to strike off judgment. Rule on plaintiff returnable 30 days after service.

Commonwealth vs. William P. Stewart. Horse stealing. Nolle prosequi allowed on payment of costs.

Accounts estates of Jacob Kleinhaus, Ruth S. Hill, Charles Wolfe confirmed n'l.

Widow's appraisement. Estate Ernst F. A. Bachmann confirmed n'l.

Private road in Dingman township, P. C. Kinkel, confirmed.

Delaware Valley railroad. Rule to show cause continued.

Rule on supervisors of Lackawanna township to show cause continued.

Bridge at Lancaster in Greene. Rule on Geo. J. Sommers to show cause why deduction shall not be made. Granted.

Road in Shohola, reviewers continued.

Petition for road in Shohola from near graveyard to Philip Kuhn's. Frank Schorr, Ira B. Bosencrance and Joseph Schmalzle appointed viewers.

Estate Lydia M. Arnet. Petition of administrator to sell real estate to pay debts.

Estate of Bartha Schuhsler, dec'd. Petition of administrator to sell real estate to pay debts.

Petition for bridge in Lackawanna. Frank Schorr, Edward Swartwood and Geo. Ainsley appointed viewers.

Sheriff acknowledged deeds to Walter H. Warner for lands in Milford borough, consideration \$500, and to Betty Cornelius for land in borough, consideration \$57.

Petition of A. G. Rowland, administrator of Valentine Stang, to sell real real estate. Bond in \$500 approved.

Estate of Minnie Katharine and Louise Newman for allowance.

Accounts of estates of Geo. F. Schette, Catharine Malheisen and John Perival confirmed absolute and accounts in estates of Eleie G. Lebar, Gottlieb Mulheisen and Catharine Eckhart confirmed.

Orders to fill jury wheel and for venire for March term.

C. P. Mott appointed auditor to audit accounts of prothonotary, etc.

Fill C. Negley vs. Mary White. Rule to show cause why judgment shall not be stricken off.

L. Rowland vs. Paul Scharlock. Order for issue in action of ejectment.

Estate Gottlieb Mulheisen. J. H. Van Eton appointed auditor.

Estate Catharine Eckhart. Geo. R. Ball appointed auditor.

James H. Quick vs. Juliette J. J. Quick. Testimony filed and divorce decreed.

\$1 to New York and Return Jan. 1 On Wednesday, Jan. 1, New Year's day, the Erie will sell special excursion tickets from Port Jervis to New York and return at the popular rate of \$1 for the round trip. Tickets good going on the Orange Co. Express leaving Port Jervis at 6:30 a. m. and good returning on any train leaving New York same day except trains Nos. 5 and 7. Here is an opportunity to spend New Year's in Greater New York at a very little cost. Remember the train leaves Port Jervis at 6:30 a. m. Jan. 1, 1902—13-37.

BRIEF MENTION.

The Masonic fraternity will enjoy a banquet at the Crissman House this evening.

The commissioners recently let the contract for raising the iron bridge at Struble's mill to Jacob Wacker for \$130.

F. P. Sawyer, who lately visited Milford, lost \$100 or had his pocket picked while on a train going to Charlestown, S. C.

Arthur M. Adams of Hunting Towers was elected at the annual meeting of the Pennsylvania Forestry association held Dec. 9 a member of the council.

Henry M. Gross of Mast Hope died recently, aged about 55 years, of consumption. He was a member during the Civil war of Co. B, 6th N. Y. Cavalry.

Dr. J. T. Rothrock, state commissioner of forestry, claims that he has found a spot where consumption will be cured. It is on the Pocono mountains in Monroe county.

The president and managers of a company for erecting a bridge over the river Lehigh near Milford have declared a semi-annual dividend of 2% payable after Jan. 15, 1902, by Wm. Mitchell, treasurer.

William P. Stewart, who was released this week from the county hotel, will be sent aboard a school ship. Hereafter if his propensities for horses lead him to long for a ride he must of necessity appropriate a sea horse to indulge his whim.

The returns of assessors in the county just filed show there are 2,357 voters and 1,767 children of school age. There were since the last semi-annual returns in May 50 births of males and 43 of females. 28 males died and 24 females. The number of dogs taxable is 1090.

John M. Hoffman of Sawkill says that deer are very plentiful in the woods. No one in this section probably is more conversant with these matters than he, and there is little fear if the law is enforced that there will be any scarcity of this game in the county for many years.

A new Russian apparatus for restoring hearing consists of a light rubber shell, furnished with a miniature microphone, which is connected to a small galvanic battery. It is claimed that the microphone causes even the softest speech to react on the auditory nerve of the deaf when the apparatus is placed to the ear.

The Sunday school of the Church of the Good Shepherd held its entertainment and distribution of gifts Tuesday night in Brown's hall, which was nicely decorated for the event. Miss Lallah St. John of Port Jervis added greatly to the enjoyment of the occasion by her excellent accompaniments with the violin.

Our loomen are feeling uncertain as to where they will obtain their supply for the coming year. The dams nearby from which they usually get it are swept away and there is but one small pond in this vicinity. That Jake Schorr has secured and it makes him an important person. If the river doesn't freeze up too may be a scarce article here next summer unless it is hauled a long distance.

Amateur Theatricals.

The play of Cranford, an adaptation, given in Brown's Hall Monday evening by a number of ladies of this town was an excellent performance. The parts were well conceived and the costumes very appropriate to the period, 1830, when the scene is laid. In fact the ladies gave entire interest to the play and it seems almost a pity that such an amount of labor and talent should be bestowed on a production which smacks of no more virility than the Ladies' Home Journal. The scene is English and simply portrays a parcel of title-worshipping females whose highest aim in life is to number on their visiting list a "joke" or a "mildy" without much inquiry as to their personal attributes and to play deceptions on each other in the agony to precede in that distinction.

A good American play of the colonial period would give equal opportunity for a display of dress and acting, and the ladies who participated evidenced, by the skill with which they developed such characters as Cranford embodies, that they could make such a play an eminent success. The singing by Mrs. W. B. Armstrong was highly appreciated and called forth an encore to which she graciously responded.

Why the Nicaragua Canal Route Was Chosen.

Professor Emory R. Johnson of the University of Pennsylvania, who was appointed by the late president as the commercial expert upon the Nicaragua canal commission, briefly described in a recent address the reason his commission selected the Nicaragua route and discarded the Darien and Panama routes. The canal route through the Isthmus of Darien, Professor Johnson said, the commission found too costly and impracticable, as tunnels would have to be constructed, and none large enough for the largest modern vessels could be properly ventilated; and even if it were possible, the cost of construction would be too great.

As between the Panama and Nicaragua routes, the latter was selected by the commission, the expert said, because it entails less work to complete, has fewer engineering difficulties to overcome, costs considerably less and can be completed in a much shorter time. On the contrary, it is longer than the Panama route, has more locks, is not so straight, and calls for concessions which the government must obtain from the Costa Rican and Nicaraguan governments. By acquiring the Panama route, the construction would cost about \$48,000,000 less than the Nicaraguan, but the difference would be made up in obtaining the concessions. The Nicaraguan canal would require about four years to complete while the Panama canal would take ten. The former would be shorter by one day for Atlantic and Pacific coast commerce, but it would be longer for the South American and Asiatic trade.

Compulsory Vaccination.

In view of the prevalence of smallpox in Philadelphia this winter, the Trustees and Faculty of the University of Pennsylvania are taking every precaution to prevent this dreadful disease from taking a foothold among those connected with the institution. While no one has yet been stricken with smallpox at Pennsylvania, and while the health of the student body is considerably above the average, no chances are being taken. Every student and every member of the teaching force and all others connected with the institution must, by special order of the Trustees, exhibit evidence satisfactory to the dean of each department that he or she has been successfully vaccinated within five years, or present evidence that he or she is capable of successful vaccination. Anyone who has failed to comply with this requirement will be excluded from all departments of the University after December 24th.

The result of this resolution has been practically that the only ones who remain unvaccinated are those who left for the holidays before being able to comply with the wishes of the trustees.

The University hospital has at present over 230 patients, 50 more than last year at this time. The same strict regulations are used there, all the nurses and doctors have been vaccinated, and patients are vaccinated when brought in; at the same time no visitors will be admitted to the wards until after the disease is stamped out of Philadelphia.

Where Women Woo the Men.

In describing some of the curious customs prevailing among the Hopi Indians, Curator Cullin, who visited the Hopis in Arizona last summer for the University of Pennsylvania, said that women are held in higher esteem than in most Indian tribes, and they, rather than the men, do the wooing. When a Hopi maiden decides which of the eligible young men of the tribe she wishes to marry, she goes and sits in his house and grinds corn until he is sufficiently impressed by her industry to marry her.

After the ceremony, which is an elaborate one, the couple go to live in the wife's house. If she tires of her husband she can obtain a divorce by merely throwing his saddle out of the house. After marriage the house, fields, and all their property except the herds belong to the wife. The Hopis are very indulgent parents. The right of the children to do as they please is never questioned.

The trip to the Hopis was part of the Wampanoag Expedition of 1901, made in the interest of the Department of Anthropology of the University of Pennsylvania.

Two barrels good roasted Rio coffee 125c. per lb.; one barrel Marseilles and Mocha mixture roasted 18c. per lb. at W & G. Mitchell's.

18 Wives and Still Lives.

A reporter's cloth has this week appeared in the city papers about a man aged 99 years who has indulged in the felicities of conjugal life with the unlucky number of 18 wives. The name given is James H. Lann or Vann and his residence Gosden and Middletown, N. Y., as best suited the scribe. Lann claims, so they say, to have been born in Mount Hope, Orange county, April 23, 1803, and has been a root doctor, author and preacher. He practiced first at Greenville using a compound he called "Dr. Lann's Gospel Medicine," but in 1827, having nearly run all the doctors out of the county, an angel of the Lord appeared to him as Paul of Tarsus of old and told him to "git" and he came to Pike as being off the face of the earth and located at Milford to lead a retired life. [Pike would have to be in it, anyway.] Here in 1830 he became entranced with the charms of Maria Westbrook, married her, but alas! she soon died, having enjoined on him as a last request that he marry her sister. This he could not immediately do but in three years he married her aunt, Mrs. Kate Westbrook. In three years she died and although overwhelmed with grief he soon learned to love a Miss Mary F. Felton, a relative of his deceased wives, and they were married and moved to Washington, D. C., where she soon died.

Undismayed he pursued at various places his habit of marrying and burying until the unlucky thirteenth was registered in his family Bible. She was the belle of Orange county but too much for our venerable friend and he divorced her. Incidentally he had lost his fortune, but now lives in comfort and happy in the reflection that he has set a noble example and proved that marriage is not in all respects a failure. His hanging on to life can only be accounted for on the ground that perhaps he is afraid to go hence as he would be almost sure to meet some of his deceased wives somewhere.

The Burr Bit.

The agent for the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals in New York recently captured a dozen pairs of burrs from the mouths of horses owned by fashionable people. In the circumstances, it seems as if the horse show might well be supplemented by some sort of an exhibition calculated to educate the public in the matter of treating horses decently. Perhaps it would be interesting to exhibit some of the owners of these horses with the burr bits in their mouths, being driven about by people who understand the business of using the diabolical instruments.

The burr in question is a circular leather pad, with the inside covered with little stiff bristles, nails or screws. This thing is put on the bit so that the spikes touch the horse's cheek, and the slightest pressure on the rein or movement of the head causes the burr to prick the skin, and the horse starts and prances with pain and irritation. This is supposed to give a mettlesome and stylish appearance in the turnout.

Undoubtedly, there is a superficial resemblance between the natural friskiness of a spirited horse and the nervous jumps of one tortured by contrivances of this kind, but it does not take a very keen observer to see the difference. It seems almost too much to believe that civilized human beings can deliberately torment a sensitive and helpless animal in this fashion, but the burr bit is proof that they do. Something ought to be done to these people. A fine is a more bagatelle to them, and imprisonment is not quite painful enough for the punishment they deserve. What really ought to be done is probably impossible. They ought to be harnessed to wagons and made to draw loads, with burr bits in their mouths, check reins on their heads, and the lash on their backs.

A Woman's Awful Peril.

"There is only one chance to save your life and that is through an operation," were the startling words heard by Mrs. I. B. Hunt of Lime Ridge, Wis., from her doctor after he had vainly tried to cure her of a frightful case of stomach trouble and yellow jaundice. Gall stones had formed and she constantly grew worse. Then she began to use Electric Bitters which wholly cured her. It's a wonderful Stomach, Liver and Kidney remedy. Cures Dyspepsia, Loss of Appetite. Try it. Only 50c. Guaranteed. For sale by all druggists.